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Government
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Information
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Notes for a speech
to be delivered by the

HONOURABLE MARTIN O'CONNELL
Minister of Labour
responsible for
Information Canada

at the official opening of
INFORMATION CANADA'S
TORONTO INFORMATION CENTRE


Friday, August 18, 1972

For release:

Friday, August 18, 1972
10:30 A.M.

I am glad you could be with me today as we officially open this Toronto office of Information Canada. For some years now, you have been familiar with the bookstore which was located here and previously at the MacKenzie Building on Adelaide Street. But today we are opening more than a redecorated and refurbished bookstore, - we are opening a citizens' enquiry centre which will be combined with the bookstore. Through the bookstores, the Government has one channel of communication with its citizens. But as important, if not more important, is the citizens' enquiry centre which enables Canadians to address questions to their government.

As Government programs and services broaden and are more specifically targeted to areas of need, it is increasingly difficult for any citizen, even the most informed, to know the activities of government. More specifically, it is difficult to know whether there is any particular government program, activity or policy for any individual need unless one happens to be an expert and is required to know government programs as part of his or her line of work. Very few people are experts, and government policy on information



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should not be established on the premise that they are. Indeed, studies have conclusively shown that there are many, many Canadians who are ignorant of very basic universal programs which are available to them to improve their lives and their livelihoods.

In our society, we must make the principle of availability of information a living one. The information must not only be available, it must be readily available. If the information is only obtained after arduous research, it is of little use to the average Canadian. Thus, this government has moved actively in this field through the agency of Information Canada.

This citizen enquiry centre is the third to be opened in Canada. There is presently one in Ottawa and one in Winnipeg, both of which have been in operation for some time.

An enquiry centre will be opened in Montreal this fall and it is presently planned to open an enquiries facility in each of the remaining provinces by the end of March, 1973. These centres will form the basic network of information centres across our country.

These centres will not only distribute government publications but they will serve as a single central point of contact where Canadians can address their enquiries without having to shop bewilderingly and often discouragingly from government department to department for answers to their questions.

Despite the fact that we are today officially opening this centre, it has been operating for some time. Despite the fact that the enquiries services have been unannounced and received no publicity, this office receives approximately 400 telephone calls a day -- or 8,000 a month. We expect the demand to increase and we will have 10 enquiries officers working from this office to serve these needs. We will increase the number of enquiries officers as the demand requires.

I have said that enquiries facilities will be opened in a major city in each of the provinces. They will be the basic network of enquiry centres across Canada. But I will not be content to rest there. I have asked my officials to plan the next step, and that is to investigate how we can provide a workable enquiry system to other communities in each of these provinces.

For example, how is the person in Owen Sound, Windsor and Temiskaming to have the same ability to make enquiries of the government as the person in Toronto? Thus, one of the major challenges for Information Canada is to actively take its enquiry services out to the people of Canada. I have also asked Information Canada to take active steps to develop methods, contacts and services that will make Information Canada compatible and complementary to many established information services in the country, such as voluntary information bureaus and libraries. Information Canada has no desire to supplant or compete with those institutions. On the contrary, we wish to work harmoniously and cooperatively, to all parties' mutual advantage. We should strive to have such a degree of cooperation that the aggregate of the services provided by all information bureaus will exceed the sum of the total resources of each.

I have addressed most of my remarks to the enquiry services but I do want to say a few words on the distribution of government publications. This function was inherited by Information Canada from the Queen's Printer, who incidentally is alive and well and living in Ottawa. I must remind you that Information Canada

is not the publisher of government documents but merely the distributor.

Since Information Canada was created in April 1970, net book sales have increased 22.5% from \$2,731,000 to \$3,344,000. What I have said about making the enquiry services more outgoing applies equally to distribution of government publications. We have engaged senior personnel who are fully knowledgeable in marketing publications of all sorts and I am calling upon the full measure of their talents and abilities. I have asked them to be far more aggressive and outgoing on the distribution of government publications. We are exploring means whereby publications can be distributed through channels other than Information Canada bookstores. We will establish a network of authorized agents for the distribution of government publications. My goal is to have several hundred authorized outlets by the end of 1974. The first of these authorized agents, Oxford Canadiana Bookstores, will be officially opened in London, Ontario next week. Soon you may find government books, reports and pamphlets in such places as private bookstores, newsstands, supermarkets and other outlets across Canada. When this is done, we will have made a significant advance in making Government information available to Canadians. This is a real contribution to the concept of Participation.

I have spoken at some length about the book sales and the enquiry centres but I don't want to leave the impression that these are the totality of Information Canada's activities. There is of course the internationally respected Canadian Government Exhibitions Commission, now called Expositions Division of Information Canada which, among other things, constructed the Canadian Trade Fair in Peking. There is the still photo library which was inherited from the National Film Board when Information Canada was created.

Another important area of Information Canada's activities is the development of cooperation and coordination among the information divisions of the departments and agencies of the federal government. There presently exists an advisory board to Information Canada with members from various departments of government. The board is helping us to identify ways of effecting and improving the efficiency of the federal information community.

As you know, each department of government has an information division which provides the public with information about its own programs and services. There is room to coordinate some of the activities of these divisions to improve the quality of the information and to effect government-wide savings. In this regard, Information Canada is moving to establish expertise which no department acting on its own

could support, but which should be available to all departments. Also in the area of government coordination and cooperation, there is a need for research into the effectiveness of communications and we are moving in this area.

I have said publicly that Information Canada was undergoing a period of re-evaluation. Well, now we are clearly back on stream and will move ahead vigorously and with full confidence that we are serving the needs of Canadians. Thus, I see this day as more than the opening of another Information Canada office, but the symbol of a bright new era in the life of this agency. I am delighted that you have come to share this moment with me and the staff of Information Canada.

INFORMATION CANADA CENTRE (TORONTO)

For further information:

Mr. Dean Smith
Regional Manager
Information Canada Centre
221 Yonge Street
tel. 369-4391

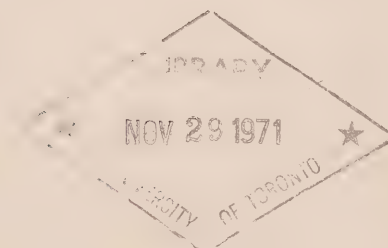
Pour d'autres renseignements:

Monsieur Dean Smith
Gérant
Centre d'Information Canada
221, rue Yonge
tél. 369-4391

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How Canadians govern themselves



Joseph Schull is the distinguished author of numerous Canadian historical works and is well known for his many radio and TV plays. His biography "Laurier" was particularly acclaimed and won significant awards.

Joseph Schull

How Canadians govern themselves

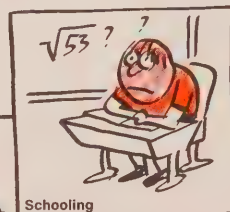
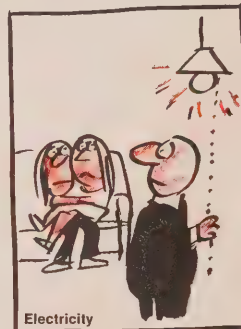
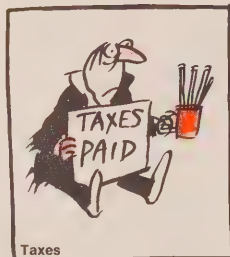
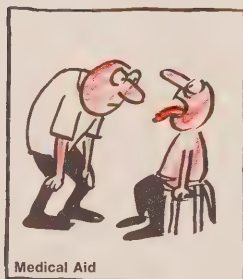
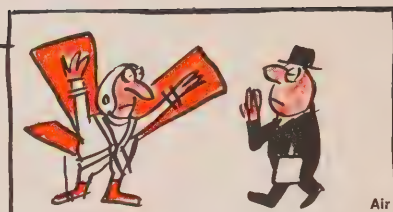
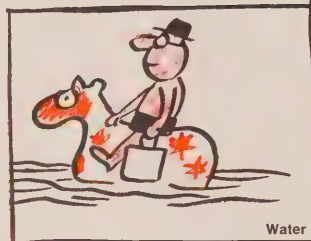
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**Information
Canada**

Government's Role in our Daily Lives



Highways

Introduction

The word '*government*' has roots in Greek and Latin, and in each case the basic meaning was "to steer" It is in that sense that democracies use it today; governments are elected by the passengers to steer the ship of the nation. They are expected to hold it on course, to arrange for a prosperous voyage, and to be prepared to be thrown overboard if they fail in either duty.

Canada is a democracy in fact and a monarchical state in form, since its head is the Queen of England. Every act of government is done in the name of the Queen, yet the authority for every act flows from the people. We were once New France. We became a British colony. With Confederation we became the Dominion of Canada, and we are now no longer a Dominion. Our roots in France and England have intertwined to produce a sovereign nation, yet, for many Canadians, the Crown remains a symbol, freely retained.

We are a self-governing amalgam of ten provinces and of territories not yet provinces, each controlling many of its own affairs and with many others controlled by federal authority. What does it all mean? How does it all work? Everybody is hazy about it except the constitutional experts. Yet the result affects you. You cannot work or eat or drink, you cannot buy or sell or own anything, you cannot go to a ball game or hockey game or listen to TV without feeling the effects of government. You cannot marry or educate your children, you cannot be sick, born or buried without the hand of government somewhere intervening. Government gives you railways, roads and airlines, sets the conditions that affect farms and industries, manages or mismanages the life and growth of the cities. Government is held responsible for social problems, and for pollution and sick environments. As *you* are, because government is your creature. You make it, you are ultimately responsible for it, and on the broad view in Canada you have considerable reason to be proud. Pride, however, like patriotism, can never be a static thing; there are always the new problems posing the new challenges. The closer you are to government, and the more you know about it, the more you can do to meet them.

What is 'Responsible Government'?

All our Canadian history books emphasize that phrase, but if you still find it obscure you are in good company. Neither the early patriots who proposed it nor the cliques and the Family Compacts who were set against it were very sure what it meant. Did a Governor look up or down? Was he responsible to the people who provided the taxes that paid him, or responsible to the king who had placed him where he was? Eventually the taxpayers won; it was conceded that government should be 'in accordance with the well-understood wishes of the people'. It remained then for the English and French of Canada to work out new machinery.

By the time of Confederation it was largely done, and little has changed in principle to this day. The Governor-General of Canada is the representative of the Queen, but he is recommended for appointment by the Canadian government and he is now a native Canadian. It is the same with the Lieutenant-Governors of the various provinces. The federal Commons and the provincial parliaments are all elected by the people. In each House it is the leader of the dominant party who forms the government of the day. As Prime Minister he selects the members of parliament who are to become ministers of his cabinet, and power resides in the cabinet while it retains control of the House. It frames legislation, administers the work of every department of government, and directs the course of the country.

But it must be supported in every act by a parliamentary majority, and beyond that, be prepared to answer ultimately to the people. Power is entrusted to parliament, and through parliament to the cabinet, for a maximum of five years. Within that period, or less, each parliament must dissolve and its members face the country in a new election.

What is 'Federal' Government?

By definition a federal government is one which brings together autonomous geographical units. If you read 'state' for autonomous geographical units the first obvious example is the United States of America. The original Thirteen Colonies, in breaking away from Britain, declared themselves a nation with an

elected President at its head. To hold the nation together and secure common action, the states gave some of their powers to the central government. They retained for themselves control of their local affairs and of the 'residue' of powers not specifically named. These unnamed powers, for which the need would develop as the country grew, were to be of much importance in the future.

The American union was made in 1776. For the remaining British colonies in North America it posed a number of problems. They were scattered across the northern half of the continent, almost totally defenceless and with little communication. The Canada of that day was only the largest of the colonies, with the maritime provinces to the east, British Columbia thousands of miles to the west, and the vast territories held by the Hudson's Bay Company a wilderness gap between. The problem of distance was almost insurmountable, and beyond that there was the problem of nationalities. Canada had been New France until 1763, and ninety percent of its people were still French. They had rejected the invitation to join the American union, and they had saved Canada in the process. They were as bent as the other colonies on retaining the British connection. But they had been assured freedom of religion, of their language, laws and customs, and these freedoms were very important to them. English and French would have to work in common, someday roads and railways would have to be built. How was it all to be done? How were these different peoples, these hugely divided territories, to be brought and held together?

The answer came slowly over the course of ninety-one years. By July 1, 1867, when Confederation was proclaimed, the colonies had been vastly changed by immigration. Canada had been divided in two and reunited again, but Upper Canada was almost entirely British and Lower Canada still largely French. In both provinces, and for a long time, tolerance and good government had been sadly lacking. There had been wars, rebellion and repression and there was still division enough, but somehow both peoples had determined to live together. They had been joined, in spite of divisions, in the fight for responsible government, and that battle had been won. They were ready now for the larger task, and they were

still British subjects. They intended to make a nation under the Crown.

The British North American Act was the instrument of Confederation, and it remains so today. It was an Act passed by the parliament of Great Britain, but it was framed on petition of the colonies and for the most part by them. Canadian politicians sitting in London, with years of stormy debate behind them in Canada, settled on the final terms with British officials. In all essentials they had their way then, and they have had it ever since. Every amendment made to the Act has originated in Canada.

The union of 1867 embraced the former Lower Canada, which became Quebec, the former Upper Canada, which became Ontario, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Even then, with so many of today's provinces not included, and some of them not existing, the purpose was to extend the nation sea to sea. It was to build railways, knit the country together, and share the benefits of growth with every region. Another purpose, basic to all agreement, was the maintenance of the French fact. Quebec was vital to the union, and it was the home province of the French. It desired to retain its language, its civil law and its culture, and to educate its children in the way it chose. Other provinces, for other reasons, required the powers to control their own affairs. They were far more separate and diverse than the Thirteen Colonies had been, but they had the same wide ambitions and the desire for central strength. The answer once again was a federal form of government, and it is that we have today.

The Canadian form differs from that of the American in many ways, but two differences are basic. One is in the 'residue' of powers, as between the central and lesser governments. In the American form the central powers are defined and therefore limited. In the Canadian form both Ottawa and the provinces have designated powers set out in the constitution. But all powers unnamed, with a few minor exceptions, accrue to the central authority, giving it more strength and leeway to meet the changes of the years.

The other difference concerns the matter of language. English is the common language of the United States. In Canada, at Confederation, French along with

English became an official language, not only in the parliament of Quebec and in all the courts of Quebec but in the federal parliament and federal courts of the Dominion. Language rights were much extended in later years, but it stood established from the beginning that we were a country of two peoples.

The Institutions of our Federal Government

The Governor-General stands formally at the head of our country as the representative of the Queen. It is by his "assent" that every Act of Parliament becomes law. This practice, however, like other powers of his office, is symbolic and freely retained. We are governed under the Crown because we have grown under the Crown, by the long British process of constitutional development. Now always a universally respected citizen of Canada, the Governor-General recalls to us the value of tradition and history.

The Senate is one of the two divisions of parliament and is designed to function as a house of "sober second thought." No Act passed by the House of Commons can be assented to by the Governor-General or become law until it is also approved by the Senate.

In theory these powers are formidable, but in practice they are rarely used. What the Senate has done, on many significant occasions, is to suggest amendments and improve legislation that has either been proposed or passed by the House of Commons. Members of Parliament, like other people, are sometimes carried away in the heat of the moment. It is the business of the Senate to cool it, and we have many improved laws to attest to their work.

Senators are not elected representatives. They are men appointed by the Governor-General in Council, which means on the recommendation of the Prime Minister and his cabinet. Their number is set by law with regard both to population and to regional representation. Ontario and Quebec have twenty-four senators each, there are six each for the three prairie provinces and British Columbia, ten for New Brunswick, ten for Nova Scotia, four for Prince Edward Island and six for Newfoundland. In all, the Senate is a body of 102 men and women, each of whom

must be at least thirty years of age and own property to the value of \$4,000. Their appointments, which were originally for life, must now be terminated by retirement at the age of seventy-five.

The Senate can originate Bills, but they must not be money Bills, and their actual passing depends on the House of Commons. What the Senate is, in effect, is a body of senior legislators, apart from the swirl of politics and with power only to advise. Beyond that, more recently, it has taken onto itself the power to probe. Committees of the Senate, investigating social conditions, environmental conditions and many other aspects of our national life, have given a new dimension to its work.

The House of Commons is the actual governing body of the country. Canada's electoral map is divided at present into 264 constituencies, or 'seats'. To each of these, at intervals of five years or less, one member is elected. The 'Commons', as it settles into its seats after an election, is an aggregation of 264 chosen men and women, each speaking for the opinions and representing the needs of his or her own section of the country.

At the time of Confederation there were fewer constituencies than there are now. In future, as the country grows, there will probably be more. Constituencies are sometimes subdivided, or have their boundaries changed. The aim is to maintain electoral districts that are roughly proportional to each other in relation to the whole population. At the present time the seats are divided as follows:

	SEATS
Ontario	88
Quebec	74
British Columbia	23
Alberta	19
Manitoba	13
Saskatchewan	13
Nova Scotia	11
New Brunswick	10
Newfoundland	7
Prince Edward Island	4
Yukon & N.W.T.	2

The Political Parties

These were not created by the British North America Act, nor by any other Act. We did it all ourselves, and without benefit of law. A political party is not a constitutional entity; it is an aggregation of people who hold similar opinions on the questions of the day. They are restless within the fold, constantly shifting and changing, and often at odds with each other as well as with their political enemies. In a word, they are human and alive, and they make democracy work.

In each parliament the strongest political party forms the government. The next strongest becomes the official opposition, with its recognized head the Leader of the Opposition. We pay him, as we pay the Prime Minister, and we pay the heads of other parties as well, if the parties are strong and recognized groups. Why? Because we want criticism, we want watchfulness, we want an alternative government if we are displeased with the one we have. The party system reflects the waves of opinion as they rise and wash through the country. There is much froth, but the deep swells move beneath them, and they set the course of the ship.

The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister, like the political parties, is a creation of custom and tradition and not of law. Legally, he is a member of parliament, elected like any other, and only accountable to his constituency. He is, however, *primus inter pares*, *first* among his equals. As the leader of the party controlling a majority in parliament, he is the man who forms the government.

He is 'called' by the Governor-General and sworn to office. He then names the ministers who will form his cabinet. They *must* be members of parliament, and if they are not at the time of their nomination they must, subsequently, be elected. A member of the Senate can be named to the cabinet, but no senator can actually sit in the House of Commons. The difficulties of selecting a cabinet are traditional in Canadian politics, since along with outstanding ability there must be fair representation among the ministers for the ethnic groups, the geographical regions and the varied interests of the country. Most ministers assume the direction of a specific

department of the country's affairs, and it is by their joint agreement, under the Prime Minister, that the decisions of government are taken.

The caucus is the general meeting of the party's members of parliament. Here the party differences are ironed out and policy set under the direction of the Prime Minister and the ministers. With a decision once made, the cabinet presents a united front to the nation. A minister at odds with his colleagues is required to resign his portfolio; government must be of one mind. But it must first have convinced its party, and it must then secure the approval of a majority in parliament, before its actions become law.

Mr. Speaker

The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House, officially the First Member. Unofficially, he is a man whose abilities are respected by all parties and who is chosen for the difficult business of guiding debate. He must be, or he must become, a living encyclopaedia of parliamentary procedure, and in enforcing the rules he must be as firm with the Prime Minister as with the most junior member. The traditions and dignity of parliament are in the Speaker's keeping, and while he does not influence legislation he controls the course of its making. Sitting as he does in the eye of many storms, he must be quick-witted and incisive, and a sense of humour helps.

In the House of Commons the Speaker is elected from among the members of the governing party. In the Senate he is appointed by the Governor-General in Council. In both houses the selection alternates among French-speaking and English-speaking members though the person chosen, of course, is proficient in both tongues.

As he comes to be elected or appointed, the Speaker renounces all party allegiance. One of our better traditions is the success with which this has been done by a long line of Speakers. Members respect parliament because respect is enforced and deserved by the man who guides it.

What goes on in Parliament?

The work of parliament involves a mass of complex, seemingly casual procedures which have evolved over

many centuries and cannot be sketched here. We might attempt, however, to give you a glimpse or two.

The Opening of a Session. If this also marks the commencement of a new parliament you will find the elected members of the House of Commons milling about in their chamber, a body without a head. On a signal, the great doors of the chamber are slammed shut. They are opened after three knocks, and the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod makes his appearance from the Senate. He has been sent by the Governor-General, who may not enter the Commons, to announce in the formal phraseology of a bygone king that 'His Excellency the Governor-General does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning the present Parliament of Canada until the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law.'

He then retires, the Speaker is elected and the members then straggle out at their own leisurely pace to stand before the bar of the Senate. The Governor-General is awaiting them, among a brilliant assembly of senators and official guests. In English and French he delivers the Speech from the Throne, which deals generally with the present conditions of the country and with measures proposed to deal with them. Like the ceremonies, gowns and uniforms, it has an impressively regal air, but every word was written by the Prime Minister and his cabinet. We retain ceremony to remind us of how democracy was won. The words are pronounced by the sovereign's representative, but it is the voice of the people speaking.

A Working Day. The Speaker enters the chamber with the Sergeant-at-Arms ahead of him carrying the Mace, the gold-plated war club which is the ancient symbol of power. The Speaker takes the chair, the mace is placed on the long table in front of him, and the daily prayer is read. Along the first rows of benches to the Speaker's right are the Prime Minister and the cabinet ministers, with the members of their party behind them. To the Speaker's left, in the first rows, are the leader and the members of the official Opposition, while the leaders and the members of other parties are distributed through the House.

As proceedings begin the official record is kept by shifts of transcribers, replacing each other in turn at

their special table. It is kept in English and French, and for several years now there has been simultaneous translation of all debates. On each member's desk there is a headset and a microphone, while the flick of a switch at each seat in the galleries brings your choice of either language.

Coming early in the routine of each day is the question period, dearly loved by the opposition parties. Here, for half an hour, the policies of various cabinet ministers and the general policies of government are probed at and defended. It is usually a lively time for Mr. Speaker, since questions and tempers alike are apt to be sharp. But it provides for a healthy airing of vexed issues, and keeps government in the open.

Bills and Acts. Bills are the stuff of parliament's daily work. They are, hopefully, laws in embryo; a Bill becomes an Act of Parliament when it has passed through all its stages. A private member can introduce a Bill, and certain days are reserved for this purpose. Most Bills, however, are introduced by the government, and with the power of the majority behind them they have the best chance of passing.

A Bill, on first reading, is introduced to the members and set aside for study. There is a second reading and a third reading, with time for full debate; and a Bill passed by the House repeats the procedure in the Senate. Having passed all stages, with assent by the Governor-General, it becomes the law of the land. In most cases, however, and in all of major importance, it has passed through another phase of intensive study. Debates on the various readings are apt to be concerned with the general drift of policy. In "Committee of the Whole", however, there is close, intimate and sometimes bloody dissection.

Committee of the Whole. Usually, after the second reading of a Bill proposed by the government, the cabinet minister who is concerned with it moves that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole. With that motion passed, the Mace comes down from the table, the Speaker leaves his chair, and a Chairman takes his place as presiding officer. The formalities of parliament relax, and for a specific purpose. The legislation in question, often complex, difficult and controversial, is to be examined

Some Provincial Responsibilities



Public Works



Licensing



Education



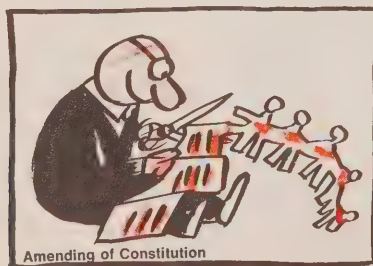
Marriage Laws



Justice



Direct Taxation



Amending of Constitution



Timber and Lumber Rights

line by line and clause by clause, with less regard for the usual rules of debate. Bills are often weeks and sometimes months in Committee of the Whole. They emerge reshaped and clarified by the clashing of many minds.

Closing Day. The close of a session of parliament has often been compared to the closing of a year at school. Members climb over benches, throw wads of paper, embrace their dearest enemies and generally release whatever steam they have left. But at the appointed warning the doors slam shut again. Black Rod must still knock, to be admitted with his summons from the Senate. He must bow three times as he approaches Mr. Speaker. The members are then informed that the Governor-General awaits them, and they approach his presence to hear that parliament is dissolved. But they go in their own order and at a pace of their own choosing. They have asserted once more, as Commons have done for almost three hundred years, that they will hear the word of sovereign or representative only of their free will.

Provincial Governments and their Powers

Each province has its own parliament, made up of elected members. It has a Lieutenant-Governor whose functions resemble those of the Governor-General, and a Prime Minister and a cabinet, which is the seat of power. Provincial elections, like federal elections, must be held at least once in every five-year period. There are provincial political parties as there are federal parties, and there are provincial seats or constituencies for which the elected members stand. Neither the parties nor the constituencies, however, correspond to their federal counterparts. The relation of federal government to the provincial governments is, as one Prime Minister described it, a matter of 'wheels within wheels', each revolving separately where its particular interests are concerned, and all meshing together for the general interest of the nation.

What is this division of interests and powers? Broadly speaking, it is the line drawn between general concerns of the country and the concerns of particular parts. Our ten provinces and our territories confront the world as a nation. Because they grow in common

they are able to share in common, with some regions contributing to the support of others. They have particular interests, however, which they wish to manage themselves, and the federal system makes this possible.

For Quebec, at Confederation, the crucial areas of concern were language and culture. For that reason the control of education, inseparably involved with these, was made a provincial affair. Quebec had its own code of civil law, and in no two of the provinces was the administration of justice wholly alike. These differences were retained, though criminal law was made a federal affair. There was flexibility from the beginning; some provinces had parliaments of two Houses, others had only one. All of them have one now, but they changed of their own accord. The provinces set taxes for their own needs, and control their public works and local development. They were meant to be, and are, the keepers of their own houses and the parents of their own people within the national framework.

Yet by the same principle of federalism each province depends on and contributes to the strength of the others. Beyond the line of their own reserved powers lie the powers of the federal government, some named and some not even thought of at Confederation, because no one knew the changing needs of the future. They included then, as they include now, the control of foreign affairs, transportation, trade and commerce, coinage, currency and the postal service, and of navigation, shipping and national defence. There were many others, and more have developed since. Nothing is quite absolute. There have been reinterpretations of some powers. There have been exchanges and surrenders of powers between federal and provincial governments. There are rarely used powers of federal intervention in provincial affairs; there are a few joint powers and there are still powers in dispute. Generally, however, for all national services and all national facilities, the power to tax and regulate belongs to the federal government.

Municipal and Metropolitan Government

Municipal government is closer to you even than provincial government. You live in a municipality

which has been established by your own province to see to your daily needs. It can tax you to do the job and it provides you in return with your water supply, sewers, roads, sidewalks, street lighting, building codes, police, fire and emergency services, social services, parks, playgrounds, libraries and much else. It is supposed to get rid of your garbage and keep your air clean, and if it fails in any of its tasks it can be made answerable to the province. For the most part, though municipal authorities groan at their many burdens, this is a rare thing.

Recently, however, in some of the larger urban regions of the country there has been a new trend developing. Groups of municipalities have come together, each surrendering its autonomy and all combining their services under Metropolitan Government. In place of many Reeves, Mayors and Councils there is one elected body managing the whole. It reduces the cost of government, effects economies in service, and makes for better use of combined facilities. More than that, by concentrating the power of sometimes millions of people, it gives the cities leverage to deal with their growing problems.

The Courts

In Canada, as in Great Britain and the United States, the law courts stand wholly apart from government. Their work is to interpret the laws that legislators make.

Each province establishes its own courts, but for the most part judges are appointed and paid by the federal government. The federal government controls criminal procedure. In civil law, however, justice begins in the provinces and is usually completed there.

In most cities and large towns there is a Magistrate's Court which hears minor cases. Above that there are courts for regions and counties, and beyond them appeal and superior courts. Only major disputes, which remain unsettled by any court of a province, are carried beyond its boundaries to the Supreme Court of Canada.

On all matters of justice and the interpretation of law, the Supreme Court of Canada is the final authority.

'Living' Government

We are apt to think of government as something static; as a machine that was built and finished long ago. Actually, since it is really only the sum of ourselves, it grows and changes as we do.

Canada today is not the Canada of 1867, and neither is the Act that made it. It has been changed by many amendments, all originated by ourselves. There are still to be many changes, and we all know it. Some are already in process, some have been slowly evolving through our first century as a nation, and some are only glimmerings along the horizon. They will come, as they always do in the parliamentary process, at the hand of many governments, with the clash of loud debate, and with the ultimate agreement of the majority who cast their votes.

We are concerned with the relations between our two founding peoples, and with the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments. We always have been. But the search for areas of agreement and the making of new adjustments has been a continual process from the beginning. The recognition of the French fact, which was limited in 1867, is extended now to embrace the whole of Canada. Not only justice as dispensed in the federal courts but the entire body of federal civil service must be available, where required, in either language. We are in the process now of clarifying the general principle and establishing the definite regions where that rule will prevail.

There is constant evolution. The country's resources grow; the provinces' needs change. Some provinces are rich, others comparatively poor. Because of federal government and the pooling of federal revenues, disparities are much lessened. Yet there are always areas of dispute, new adjustments required, and special problems to be met. Federal-provincial conferences, bringing together all the heads of government, are not new in our history. But they are becoming more frequent today, and more effective, in evolving new solutions.

Historically, Canada is a nation founded by the English and French. Yet it is now a great amalgam

Some Federal Responsibilities



of many peoples. They have common rights and needs, and their own particular requirements within the general frame of the law. All these must be recognized. We are far yet from realizing many of our ideals but we have made progress with some, and a decade ago we marked progress with a milestone.

On August 10, 1960, the federal parliament declared in a Bill of Rights 'that in Canada there have existed and shall continue to exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely:

- (a) the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law;**
- (b) the right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law;**
- (c) freedom of religion;**
- (d) freedom of speech;**
- (e) freedom of assembly and association; and**
- (f) freedom of the press.**

All this is the work of government in the past, but growth and change go on, looking to the future. We assume the old freedoms; but what about the problems of today? As a country we are growing richer, but pollution is the price we have to pay. We are leaving the farms and bushlands and crowding

into the cities. We are becoming an industrialized nation, an urbanized, computerized nation, and we are now faced with the difficulties of evolving a new life. We have a new concern for the environment that our fathers took for granted. We want more of everything that makes life good, but we are no longer sure what it is. We know that the first condition is a just and peaceful sharing, but how is that to be done? We have gained for ourselves through government a certain measure of security for the aged and sick and helpless; it is not enough yet. Poverty is still with us; we have not yet given their rights to the fit and young: the right to useful work, the right to a sense of dignity, and to assured participation in the national life. We are aware all too painfully that a woman's right to a share in the work of Canada is still less than a man's.

They are all problems of government, and therefore your problems. They all concern millions, and are therefore difficult to solve. Parliaments and parties, like life, have no instant remedies but they have one common aim. It is to get closer to you, to determine your real will, and to endeavour to give it form and thrust for action. That is the work you chose them for, and it can only be done in the end with your help. When you take an interest in your community, when you form an opinion in politics, and when you go to cast your vote you are part of government.

Freedom under the Bill of Rights



Freedom of Assembly



Freedom of the Press



Freedom of Belief



Freedom of Property



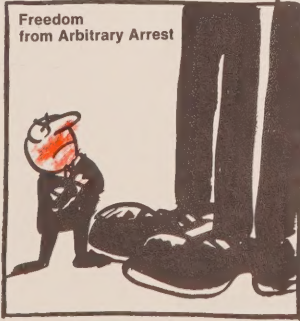
Free Speech



Political Freedom



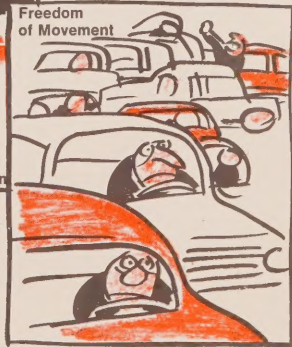
Freedom of Enterprise



Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest



Freedom from Discrimination



Freedom of Movement

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